

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /062 W

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P 161449Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1270

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, US, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET TRANS-POLAR FLIGHT FROM MOSCOW TO SEATTLE

1. JUNE 14 IZVESTIYA CARRIES LENGTHY BACK-PAGE REMINISCENCE
PIECE ON FIRST NON-STOP TRANS-POLAR FLIGHT FROM USSR TO US.
JUNE 1937 FLIGHT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN SINGLE-ENGINE ANT-25
WITH THREE-MAN CREW ABOARD LED BY CAPTAIN VALERIY CHKALOV.
FLIGHT TIME WAS 63 HOURS 25 MINUTES.

2. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY REPORTING THAT IL-62M (REGISTRY NUMBER
86614) WILL WITHIN NEXT DAYS DUPLICATE (AND COMMEMORATE) CHKALOV'S
FEAT BY FLYING NON-STOP MOSCOW-SEATTLE OVER NORTH POLE.
INTERVIEWS WITH FLIGHT CREW (CAPTAIN YU. ZELENKOV, V. RYZHOV,
V. STEPANENKO, I. RYAZANOV, I. KLOCHKO, V. KIRILLOV, AND A. "-";85(9;
(86) INDICATE THAT PRESENT FLIGHT PLAN CALLS FOR
COVERING THE 8625 KILOMETERS IN 10 HOURS 45 MINUTES, WITH
APPARENT DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW OF 1000 AND ARRIVAL IN SEATTLE
1100 SAME MORNING. WHILE DATE FOR FLIGHT NOT SPECIFIED,
CHKALOV'S FLIGHT DEPARTED MOSCOW JUNE 18, 1937, SUGGESTING
THAT WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, MAY BE TARGET DATE.

3. SINCE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL SOVIET NOTIFICATION
OF INTENDED FLIGHT, PRESUMABLY FLIGHT CLEARANCE FROM USG WAS
REQUESTED VIA SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. IN VIEW OF
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INCREASING LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE

RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE
ON THIS FLIGHT, PARTICULARLY TO ALLOW US TO RESPOND TO ANTICIPATED
PRESS INQUIRES.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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TAGS: EAIR, US, UR
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